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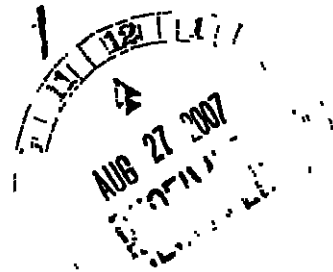
TAG Rail, LLC

16 Hampton Court – Suite #717 • Skillman, NJ 08558 • 908-904-4908

August 21, 2007

The Honorable Vernon Williams
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
393 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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Subject: Ex Parte No. 670 – Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee

Dear Chairman Williams,

Last month I read the STB press release regarding the subject ex parte case and the Board's request for suggestions for committee membership. I responded via e-mail on your website to express my interest in joining the RETAC team. Since that time I have spoken with Anne Newman at the STB and as a result of those conversations, I am sending you this communication.

I feel my qualifications would be an asset to the Committee as I have been involved in all aspects of rail transportation for the past thirty years. I am currently President of the Transportation Advisory Group.

"TAG" provides advisory services to financial institutions, shippers and railroads on matters relating to the financing of railcars, locomotives and other rail related assets. The other TAG entities are TAG Maritime, LLC offering similar advisory services for blue and brown water vessels and TAG Aerospace, LLC for commercial aircraft.

Prior to forming "TAG", I was Senior Vice President at CIT Rail Resources and instrumental in the purchase and acquisition of nearly \$500 million in aluminum coal cars as well as tank cars for ethanol and covered hopper cars for DDG (dried distiller's grains). I have dealt with all of the major car builders at the executive level.

In addition to my 10+ years at CIT, I have held increasingly responsible positions at GE Capital, GATX Corporation and HELM Financial. My background also includes knowledge of the mining, utility and bio-fuels industries.

I believe my diverse background in the areas of equipment leasing, car management and market trend analysis would be an asset to the Committee. More importantly, I am willing to commit to the two year term suggested in the press release. Because of my unique background, I represent no special interests or groups.

If you feel my qualifications would be helpful to the Committee, please accept this letter as my offer to join RETAC.

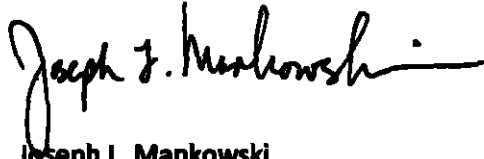
Transportation Advisory Group, LLC

The Honorable Vernon Williams

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I look forward to hearing your favorable response in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph L. Mankowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Joseph L. Mankowski
President**